

Friends,

This is a newsworthy week, and it's only Tuesday night. I am happy to share with you some good news and information about important advancements for Council District Three and for San Diego.

NEWS

Creating a Lasting Legacy for Balboa Park

Yesterday, I joined with Mayor Jerry Sanders and many philanthropic and cultural leaders to announce an important step to sustain and strengthen Balboa Park as a public park. A new task force, under the stalwart leadership of Vicki Granowitz, will develop a new nonprofit public-benefit entity to work with the City's Park and Recreation Department on fundraising and park management.

Balboa Park has been the crown jewel of our park system and the jewel of our City for 100 years. It is a source of pride and inspiration for San Diegans and visitors. This diverse task force of stakeholders will hold public meetings over the next six months to engage the public in a dialogue that will include: the relationship between the City and park support organizations; potential changes to the municipal code, council policies and the City Charter; and the structure of the new governance body. The role of the public organization will also be considered.

While the work ahead for the task force will be difficult, and the questions to answer are many, I know the members share my passion for the park and my commitment that Balboa Park will always remain the property of the people of San Diego and the City will remain responsible for its operation.

I am excited for the public to participate with the task force and to see the structure it recommends to ensure a lasting legacy for Balboa Park. The task force's first meeting is Monday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Balboa Park Club, 2150 Pan American Road. I will include complete information including the list of task force members and the meeting schedule on my website in the next few days.

\$2 Million Secured for Balboa Park

As the task force proceeds with its work, the sustainability of Balboa Park will be further guaranteed thanks to the support of my City Council colleagues. In approving the use of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds, I asked for \$2 million to be dedicated specifically to projects in Balboa Park. Under the original proposal, projects in any City-owned building leased to a non-profit organization would have been eligible to compete for these funds. I appreciate that my colleagues understood the importance of dedicating these funds to energy efficiency projects in Balboa Park. The EECBG funds will be leveraged to attract additional private investment of \$2 million for these projects, to equal up to \$4 million for Balboa Park. I offer my special thanks to all those who have participated in the process of shaping how these EECBG funds were allocated.

The City's Finances: Our Greatest Challenge

In the time that has passed since the City of San Diego's Five Year Financial Outlook was released, it has been the subject of much discussion by elected officials, members of the media and the public. It is the third group that is of primary importance, and the one the other two groups must encourage to remain in the dialogue of addressing the City's budget deficit.

I try not to speak for my colleagues, but hope they share my interest in input from our neighbors. What City services can you absolutely not live without? What services could be reduced or even eliminated? What services might you be willing to pay for or pay more for?

As a City, we must pursue comprehensive solutions that tackle the immediate financial shortage while moving forward aggressively and openly about potential means of general revenue production for the long term sustainability of the City.

I look forward to providing digestible and understandable budget information and education to my neighbors and collecting helpful public input about the current budget situation at the San Diego LGBT Community Center's Coalition Breakfast this Friday. I invite your participation. Details are below. For more information about this event, please visit <http://www.thecentersd.org/CommunityCoalitionBreakfast.php>.

The City's Budget Deficit: What does \$200 million mean and how can we fix it?
Friday, October 16
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
The LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre St., 92103

Also, the San Diego City Council will hold budget hearings in the community to encourage additional public participation in the deficit dialogue. I will post the meeting schedule as soon as it is available and on my website, www.sandiego.gov/cd3.

All comments and suggestions are welcome via all avenues. Please contact my office by phone (619-236-6633) or email (ToddGloria@sandiego.gov), chat with me at any of the events or meetings in the community, or connect with me on Twitter, Facebook or MySpace.

When we fully address our budget challenges over the next two years, we will have built a solid foundation from which to move our City forward.

Caring for the Homeless

Today, the San Diego City Council approved the annual winter homeless shelter to be placed where it was last year at the intersection of 15th and Island if that is amenable to the property owner. If we cannot access that property, where the City paid for \$140,000 in improvements for the shelter last year, this year's shelter will be placed at 13th and F. I believe these sites, which are close to necessary services and in the nearest proximity to most homeless individuals, are the best alternatives. It is now time to move forward

aggressively to establish a permanent homeless shelter. The City has received proposals from service providers for a permanent facility, and I call on the Mayor and my colleagues to open these discussions immediately.

A New Park for University Heights

The Birney Elementary Joint Use Field took a giant step closer to construction when, on October 5, my San Diego City Council colleagues unanimously supported my motion to approve the project. The Birney Joint Use project includes a 1.6 acre irrigated turf multipurpose field, a .25 acre perimeter walkway, fencing and an accessible pathway into the field from the corner of Meade Avenue and Park Boulevard. A combination of the Uptown Community Planning Area's Development Impact Fees and State Proposition 40 grants complete the full funding necessary for the City to move forward with construction. In light of the City's current financial challenges, it is important to note that these funds were allocated responsibly and could not have been used for general City purposes. It is anticipated that ground will be broken in December and the field will be open for use by next fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The upcoming events that appear in this e-newsletter are some of those which I am scheduled to attend. Please see the News and Events tab of the Council District Three website for a full listing of upcoming events I'm attending and visit the website's Communities page for regularly-scheduled community group meetings.

The City's Budget Deficit: What does \$200 million mean and how can we fix it?

LGBT Coalition Breakfast

Friday, October 16 at 7:30 a.m.

The LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre Street

Annual Fall Fiesta benefiting the Alpha Project

Sunday, October 18 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Mission Trails Regional Park Visitors Center

Let's Talk About the Budget

A Special Coffee with your Councilmember

Saturday, October 24 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Urban Solace, 3823 30th Street

San Diego Low Rider Gospel Fest

Saturday, October 24 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Cherokee Point Park, 3735 38th St.

www.sandiegolowridergospelfest.com

Ninth Annual Millennium Awards Luncheon

Presented by the Friends of Balboa Park

Tuesday, October 27 at 11:30 a.m.

Balboa Park Club, 2150 Pan American Road

For more information, please email info@friendsofbalboapark.org

If you cannot attend any of the above events, I encourage you to stay in touch with me by calling 619-236-6633, emailing ToddGloria@sandiego.gov, or using Facebook, Twitter or MySpace.

Thank you for your continued input and for the opportunity to serve,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'T' and a cursive 'odd'.

Todd

If you would no longer like to receive updates, please visit
<http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3>.